The Montana Department of Commerce purchases and makes publicly available population projections for Montana and the State's 56 counties. Projections are produced by Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI), an economic modeling company located in Amherst, Massachusetts (<a href="www.remi.com">www.remi.com</a>). The population projections data set is known as "eREMI Population Projections". Montana county eREMI population projection data is updated by REMI on a continuum based on the release of more current data used in the estimation models. The eREMI population projections are estimating residents of Montana and its counties; temporary populations are not included.

Currently, the Department of Commerce has eREMI - v7 data available online which was released in August of 2016. eREMI - v7 data is made up of base year estimates from 1990 - 2013 with model based projections for 2014 - 2060. The historical estimates to projection estimates shift is symbolized by the dashed line on each graph.

Projected population estimates for a given area (i.e. county) are derived using the following mathematical model:

## Projected Population<sub>t</sub> = Starting Population<sub>t-1</sub> + Births<sub>t-1</sub> - Deaths<sub>t-1</sub> $\pm$ Net Migration<sub>t-1</sub>

The model uses estimated births, deaths and expected net migration for an area to ultimately estimate the area's projected population for the respective future year. Net migration is made up of four "migrant types": 1) *economic migrants*, 2) *retired migrants*, 3) *international migrants*, and 4) *special population migrants*. *Special population migrants* are made up of mostly college students, stationed military personnel, and prison populations.

The graphs for net international migrants and net special population migration have been omitted within this report because the estimates for these measures are marginal for most of Montana and its counties.

The following charts represent Sanders County, Montana's estimated population projections by component (i.e. births, deaths, net migration) for eREMI - v7 data.













